Case 2:09-cv-07156-FMO Document 1 Filed 10/01/09 Page 1 of 9 Page ID #:1 FILED THE JEWETT LAW GROUP, INC. BRADLEY E. JEWETT (BAR NO. 222773) 1 937 N. Crescent Heights Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90046 2009 OCT - 1 PM 2: 34 Phone: (323) 300-6413 Fax: (323) 638-5883 LERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES E-mail: Brad@JewettLawGroup.com 4 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff EDEN SURGICAL CENTER, 6 a California medical corporation 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 EDEN SURGICAL CENTER, a 11 California medical corporation, OMPLAINT FOR DISCLOSURE 12 Plaintiff. DOCUMENTS UNDER THE 13 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT V. **INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974** 14 15 TENET HEALTHCARE 29 U.S.C. §1132(a)(1)(A) CORPORATION, C/O TENET 16 [Disclosure Penalty] BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, in its capacity as plan 17 administrator. 18 Defendant. 19 20 21 22 Plaintiff Eden Surgical Center respectfully alleges as follows: 23 Plaintiff Eden Surgical Center ("Eden") at all times mentioned herein, was 1. 24 and is a California medical corporation conducting business in the County of Los 25 Angeles, State of California. 26 Eden is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that defendant 27 Tenet Healthcare Corporation, c/o Tenet Benefits Administration Committee, in its 28 [1] E550-017/00474

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capacity as the plan administrator ("Tenet"), at all times mentioned herein, was and is a corporation with a group employee welfare benefit plan that can be found and is administered in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

- 3. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under 29 U.S.C. §1132(e), as this is a civil action under Section 502 of the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). All statutory references are to ERISA, which is codified at Title 29.
- 4. The venue of this action in this Court is proper under 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2), as the Tenet Employee Benefit Plan, infra, may be found, and is administered, in California's Central Judicial District, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Eden's Standing

- 5. Eden hereby sues Tenet derivatively, appearing before this Court as the assignee of its patient, plan participant Gloria Elequin (the "Plan Participant"), and not as an independent suitor. As a derivative suitor, Eden stands in the shoes of its assignor, and invokes the jurisdiction of the Court to enforce the Plan Participant's ERISA rights.
- 6. Subject matter jurisdiction of this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1331. as Eden presents a colorable claim under ERISA.
- 7. Eden reserves, and does not hereby waive its right, to pursue additional relief against Tenet in the future under 29 U.S.C. §1132(a)(1)(B).

The Plan and the Administration Thereof

- 8. Eden is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Tenet has a group employee welfare benefit plan entitled the Tenet Employee Benefit Plan (the "Plan").
- 9. Eden is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that PacifiCare (or an affiliate or subsidiary thereof) ("PC"), serves as the claims administrator for the Plan.
- 10. Tenet, in its capacity as the plan administrator, is liable for the ERISA disclosure violations at issue. As such, Tenet is charged herein with the failure and refusal to provide the documents under which the Plan is operated and relating to the

STATUTORY PENALTY

Eden's Document Production Demand

- 18. On or about June 8, 2009, Eden demanded, in writing, that Tenet produce the contracts, agreements and documents under which the Plan is established and/or operated and relating to the adverse benefit determination at issue (the "Documents"), pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1024(b)(4) and 29 C.F.R. §2560-501 paragraphs (g), (h) and (m).
- 19. In response, Tenet claimed that PC had never received the medical records that were sent to PC in December of 2006. Eden then provided Tenet and PC with copies of the documents Eden disclosed to PC in December of 2006.
- 20. Tenet subsequently produced the Tenet Employee Benefit Plan, the PC Certificate of Coverage and the PC Schedule of Benefits, but failed and refused to produce any additional documents, notwithstanding Eden's request.
- 21. On August 25, 2009, PC issued an Explanation of Benefits ("EOB") which stated Eden's claim was ineligible. PC's notice stated "claims must be submitted within the timely filing limit in order to be paid. Your timely filing limit may be based on any of the following: provider contract, certificate, and/or state law(s)".
- 22. As of the date this Complaint was filed, Tenet has failed and refused to produce the additional Documents relating to the operation of the Plan which would allow Eden to understand the ineligibility and ultimate denial notice.
- 23. Based on Tenet's conduct, Eden has been denied the opportunity to know exactly where it stands with respect to the Plan and the operation thereof regarding the claims administration for medical services provided to the Plan Participant.

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR DISCLOSURE AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE THE DOCUMENTS IN VIOLATION OF

29 U.S.C. §1024(b)(4) AND 29 C.F.R.§2560.503.1.

- 24. Eden realleges and incorporates herein by this reference paragraphs 1 through 23, inclusive, of this Complaint.
- 25. As an ERISA fiduciary and administrator of the Plan, Tenet had a duty to provide complete disclosure of the Documents upon the written request from Eden, and if necessary, to obtain such documents from its subordinate claims administrator.
- 26. Tenet breached this disclosure duty by failing and refusing to produce all of the required Documents after receiving Eden's written request, in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1024(b)(4) and 29 C.F.R. §2560.503-1 paragraphs (g), (h) and (m).
- 27. Tenet's failure to produce the Documents denied Eden the opportunity to know exactly where it stands with respect to the Plan and the operation thereof regarding the claims administration for medical services provided to the Plan Participant identified herein, and thus necessitated the filing of this action.
- 28. Accordingly, Tenet should be ordered to produce the requested Documents under 29 U.S.C. §1024(b)(4) and 29 C.F.R. §2560.503-1 paragraphs (g), (h) and (m). Further, Tenet should be subject to the statutory penalty prescribed by 29 U.S.C. §1132(c), in the amount of \$110.00 dollars per day commencing on July 9, 2009, through and including the date judgment is entered in this action, or the date that the requested Documents are received, whichever comes first.
- 29. In addition, Eden should be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(1).

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Eden Surgical Center prays for judgment against defendant Tenet Healthcare Corporation c/o Tenet Benefits Administration Committee, in its capacity as the plan administrator, as follows:

ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 1. For an order or judgment of the Court compelling Tenet's immediate production of all Documents requested by Eden, in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §1024(b)(4) and 29 C.F.R. §2560.503-1 paragraphs (g), (h) and (m);
- 2. For an award of the statutory penalty due under 29 U.S.C. §1132(c) in the amount of \$110.00 dollars per day for the claim at issue, commencing on July 9, 2009, through and including the date judgment is entered in this action, or the date that the requested Documents are received, whichever comes first;
- 3. For an award of Eden's attorneys' fees incurred in this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(1);
- 4. For an award of plaintiff Eden Surgical Center's costs of suit incurred herein; and
 - 5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: October 1, 2009

THE JEWETT LAW GROUP, INC.

BRADLEY E. JEWET Attorneys for Plaintiff Eden Surgical Center

E550-017/00474

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Case 2:09100100 \$564FMOISTBUCTICOURT, CENTRADIOIS/10010FOQUATOR GENERAL CIVIL COVER SHEET

It (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) Eden Surgical Center, a California medical corporation (b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)				DEFENDANTS Tenet Healthcare Corporation, c/o Tenet Benefits Administration Committee, in its capacity as plan administrator Attorneys (If Known)						
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTIO	N (Place an X in one box only.)				RINCIPAL PAR' k for plaintiff and c		For Diversity Cases (efendant.)	s Only		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 2 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			PTF DEF Citizen of This State □ 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State			PT lace □				
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			Citizen of Another	Citizen of Another State				5 🗆 5		
	***		Citizen or Subject	of a Fore	eign Country 🗆 3	□ 3	Foreign Nation			5 □6
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in or Original 2 Remove State C	ed from 3 Remanded from		instated or	Fransferre	ed from another dis	strict (sţ	Distr		Appeal to Judge fro Magistra	om
V. REQUESTED IN COMPL	AINT: JURY DEMAND: 🗆	Yes 🗹	· ·	-	•					
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C	.P. 23: ☐ Yes ☑ No		. 1 2 MC	ONEY D	EMANDED IN C	OMPL.	AINT: \$ <u>\$9,000 (</u> 2	ipprox sta	tutory pe	nalty)
	e the U.S. Civil Statute under whi	-	-						ss diversit	y.)
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place	(4) Disclosure; 29 U.S.C. Section	1132(c)	Statutory Penalty r	re: failure	to disclose require	ed docu	ments under ERISA		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
OTHER STATUTES	CONTRACT	Τ	TORTS	T	TORTS		PRISONER	1	LABOR	
☐ 900 Appeal of Fee Determi-	Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	□ 310 □ 315 □ 320 □ 330 □ 340 □ 345 □ 350 □ 355 □ 360 □ 362 □ 365 □ 368 □ 462 □ 463	SONAL INJURY Airplane Airplane Product Liability Assault, Libel & Slander Fed. Employers' Liability Marine Marine Product Liability Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Product Liability Other Personal Injury Personal Injury- Med Malpractice Personal Injury- Product Liability Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability MIGRATION Naturalization Application Habeas Corpus- Alien Detainee Other Immigration Actions	370 371 380 385 BA 422 423 CI 441 442 443 445 445	PERSONAL PROPERTY Other Fraud Truth in Lending Other Personal Property Damage Property Damage Product Liability NKRUPTCY Appeal 28 USC 158 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 VIL RIGHTS Voting Employment Housing/Accommodations Welfare American with Disabilities - Employment American with Disabilities - Other Other Civil Rights	□ 530 □ 535 □ 540 □ 555 □ 610 □ 620 □ 625 □ 630 □ 640 □ 650	Mandamus/ Other Civil Rights Prison Condition ORFEITURE / PENALTY Agriculture Other Food & Drug Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 Liquor Laws R.R. & Truck Airline Regs Occupational Safety /Health Other	A R.	itigation mpl. Ret. I ccurity Act ERTY Ric pyrights itent rademark AL SECUI IA (1395ff ack Lung IWC/DIW 05(g)) SID Title > SI (405(g)) AL TAX ixes (U.S. Defendan	t. t. Act oper Act onc. GHTS RITY (923) W (VI SUITS Plaintiff t)

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AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

CV-71 (05/08)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number:

Case 2: 19 EVED SIENCE | MUSTRICAL COURT | CENTERIAL COURT BOCT Page AL LEPORN Page | D #:8 CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Ha If yes, list case number(s):	as this action been p	previously filed in this court a	and dismissed, remanded or closed? [¥No □ Yes				
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Hav If yes, list case number(s):	ve any cases been pr	reviously filed in this court th	nat are related to the present case? No Yes				
□ B. □ C.	Arise from the sam Call for determinat For other reasons v	ne or closely related transaction of the same or substantia would entail substantial dupli	ons, happenings, or events; or Illy related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or t, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.				
IX. VENUE: (When completing the (a) List the County in this District;	_		if necessary.) if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides.				
I	its agencies or empl	oyees is a named plaintiff. If	f this box is checked, go to item (b).				
County in this District:* Eden Surgical Center - Los Ang	eles County	***************************************	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
			Tenet Healthcare Corporation, c/o Tenet Benefits Administration Committee, in its capacity as plan administrator - Texas				
(e) List the County in this District; Note: In land condemnation c			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose. ved.				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
Los Angeles County							
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernai Note: In land condemnation cases, us			San Luis Obispo Counties				
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER):	156	Date October 1, 2009				
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The or other papers as required by law	ne CV-71 (JS-44) C w. This form, appro-	ved by the Judicial Conferenc	rmation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings to of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)				
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	cial Security Cases						
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	f Cause of Action				
861	НІА	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))					
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)					
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))					
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))					
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.					
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))					

CV-71 (05/08) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 2

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Name & Address: The Jewett Law Group, Inc.		_	_
Bradley E. Jewett, Esq. (Bar No. 222773)			
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Los Angeles, CA 90046			
Tel: (323) 378-6098 / Fax: (323) 378-5818			
Brad@JewettLawGroup.com			
UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT CO		
CENTRAL DISTRIC	T OF CALIFO		,
Eden Surgical Center, a California medical corporation	CASE NUMBER		
PLAINTIFF(S) V.	CV 09	07156	FMO
Tenet Healthcare Corporation, c/o Tenet Benefits			
Administration Committee, in its capacity as plan			
administrator		SUMMONS	
DEFENDANT(S).			
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 20 days after service of this summor must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached 2 or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Bra 937 N. Crescent Heights Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046 judgment by default will be entered against you for the ryour answer or motion with the court.	complaint □ 2 of the Federal adley E. Jewett	amende Rules of Civil Proce	ed complaint dure. The answer _, whose address is If you fail to do so,
	Clerk, U.S. I	District Court	
Dated: 0CT - 1 2009	Ву:	CHRISTOPHER PO	WERS
	<i>-</i>	Deputy Clerk	
		(Seal of the Court)	
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	s agency, or is an oj	fficer or employee of the	United States. Allowed
CV-01A (12/07) SUMN	IONS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	